

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fluid detecting device
~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

a plurality of branch paths, each of which: (i) comprises an
5 opening end portion that is positioned in the vicinity of an
inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to an upstream
side of the main path, and (ii) causes part of a fluid flowing in
the vicinity of the inner wall surface of the main path to run
therethrough via the opening end portion; and

10 at least one thermal flow sensor that detects a flow of the
fluid running through the branch paths;

wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch
paths, which are pointed toward the upstream side of said main
path, are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross~~
15 ~~section of said main path~~ around an axis of said main path in a
cross-section of said main path.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A fluid detecting device
~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

a plurality of branch paths, each of which: (i) comprises an
5 opening end portion that is positioned in the vicinity of an
inner wall surface of the main path so as to point to a
downstream side of the main path, and (ii) causes fluid to flow
therethrough via the opening end portion into the vicinity of the
inner wall surface of the main path; and

10 at least one thermal flow sensor that detects a flow of the
fluid running through the branch paths;

wherein the opening end portions of said plurality of branch
paths, which are pointed toward the downstream side of said main
path, are arranged at regular intervals ~~along a path cross~~
15 ~~section of said main path~~ around the axis of said main path in a
cross-section of said main path.

Claim 4 (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according
to claim 2, wherein:

the plurality of branch paths, which comprise the ~~whose~~
opening end portions ~~are~~ pointed toward the upstream side of said
5 main path at respective first ends thereof, are ~~connected~~ coupled
to ~~the other end portions~~ each other at second ends thereof to
form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in ~~a portion where said~~
~~plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~
10 said one path ~~[[,]]~~ and detects a total flow rate of the ~~fluids~~
fluid running through the branch paths.

6. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according
to claim 3, wherein:

the plurality of branch paths, which comprise the ~~whose~~
opening end portions ~~are~~ pointed toward the downstream side of
5 said main path at respective first ends thereof, ~~are connected~~
coupled to the other end portions each other at second ends
thereof to form one path; and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in ~~a portion where said~~
~~plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~
10 said one path ~~[[,]]~~ and detects ~~the~~ a total flow rate of the
~~fluids~~ fluid running through the branch paths.

7. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according
to claim 5, wherein an end portion of ~~the portion where the~~
~~plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~
said one path ~~[[,]]~~ is open toward ~~the~~ a surrounding environment
of said main path.

8. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim [[1]] 2, further comprising [[:]] an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location ~~that is disposed in a portion~~ where said branch paths are not formed, and which detects a state of said fluid.

9. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 8, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

10. (Currently Amended) A fluid detecting device comprising:

a main path through which a fluid runs;

~~one or a plurality of branch paths~~ at least one branch path,

5 each ~~having~~ of which: (i) comprises an inflow-side opening end portion pointed toward an upstream side of said main path and an outflow-side opening end portion pointed toward a downstream side of said main path which are formed in the vicinity of an inner wall surface of the main path, and ~~causing~~ (ii) causes part of a
10 fluid flowing in the vicinity of the inner wall surface of said main path to run therethrough via said inflow-side and outflow-side opening end portions; and

15 ~~a~~ at least one thermal flow sensor that ~~is disposed in said~~
~~branch path and~~ detects a flow of the fluid running through said
branch path.

11. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device
according to claim 10, wherein the fluid detecting device
comprises a plurality of said branch paths, the inflow-side
opening end portions ~~and the respective outflow-side opening end~~
5 ~~portions in~~ of said plurality of branch paths are arranged at
regular intervals ~~along a path cross section of said main path~~
around an axis of said main path in a cross-section of said main
path, and the outflow-side opening end portions of said plurality
of branch paths are arranged at regular intervals around the axis
10 of said main path in a cross-section of said main path.

12. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device
according to claim 10, wherein the fluid detecting device
comprises a plurality of said branch paths, and the inflow-side
opening end portions ~~and~~ of the plurality of branch paths are
5 approximately aligned with the respective outflow-side opening
end portions ~~in said plurality of branch paths are roughly~~
~~aligned~~ in a path direction of said main path.

13. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 11, wherein:

said plurality of branch paths ~~have~~ comprises: (i) a
plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said
5 ~~respective~~ inflow-side opening end portions, respectively, (ii) a
plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said
~~respective~~ outflow-side opening end portions, respectively, and
(iii) a communicating portion, which is disposed between said
plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of
10 downstream-side branch paths, and which forms ~~to form~~ one path;
and

said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating
portion ~~that forms said one path,~~ and detects a total flow rate
of the ~~fluids~~ fluid running through said branch paths.

14. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 13, wherein a path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than a path resistance of said communicating portion.

15. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 10, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location ~~that is disposed~~

~~in a portion~~ where said branch paths are not formed, and
which detects a state of said fluid.

16. (Original) The fluid detecting device according to claim 15, wherein said auxiliary thermal flow sensor is disposed in a fluid-pooling portion that communicates with said branch paths.

17. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 2, wherein each of said branch paths comprises another end portion which is ~~are open at the other end sides~~ toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

18. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, wherein each of said branch paths comprises another end portion which is ~~are open at the other end sides~~ toward a surrounding environment of said main path.

19. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 6, wherein an end portion of ~~the portion where the plurality of branch paths are connected to one another to form~~ said one path ~~[[,]]~~ is open toward ~~the~~ a surrounding environment of said main path.

20. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 12, wherein:

5 said plurality of branch paths ~~have~~ comprises: (i) a plurality of upstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ inflow-side opening end portions, respectively, (ii) a plurality of downstream-side branch paths provided with said ~~respective~~ outflow-side opening end portions, respectively, and (iii) a communicating portion, which is disposed between said plurality of upstream-side branch paths and said plurality of downstream-side
10 branch paths, and which forms ~~to form~~ one path; and

 said thermal flow sensor is disposed in the communicating portion ~~that forms said one path,~~ and detects a total flow rate of the ~~fluids~~ fluid running through said branch paths.

21. (Currently Amended) The fluid detecting device according to claim 20, wherein a path resistance of each of said branch paths is greater than a path resistance of said communicating portion.

22. (New) The fluid detecting device according to claim 3, further comprising an auxiliary thermal flow sensor, which is positioned at a location where said branch paths are not formed, and which detects a state of said fluid.